(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect the officials of the Indian High Commission working in Islamabad and to take up the matter with the Government of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) On 19th April, 2002 a staff member of Indian High Commission was forcibly abducted and released some 9 hours later badly beaten and bruised. In such cases, Pakistan routinely alleges, without any basis whatsoever, the person concerned was found to be indulging in activities incompatible with his diplomatic status.

(d) Government of India conveys its strong protest to Government of Pakistan at all cases of torture/harassment of officials of Indian, High Commission in Islamabad reminding them of their obligations under the Viena Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the bilateral "Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic Consular Personnel in India & Pakistan". Government remains committed to taking all measures to ensure the welfare and well-being of its personnel in Missions abroad.

Closing down of Gurdwara in Kuwait

4581. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kuwaiti Government has closed down the only Gurdwara in that country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether this matter has been discussed with the Kuwaiti Goverment; and .

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.